

What is claimed is:

1. A method of imaging a liquid-filling container comprising the steps of emitting and irradiating light onto the container (B) by a light emitting unit (2), receiving the light transmitted through the container by a light
5 receiving unit (3) and imaging the container based on information about the transmitted light;

characterized in that

said light emitting unit (2) emits and irradiates a near infrared
10 light as said light for imaging the container (B).

2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said light emitting unit comprises a light emitter (2A) and a cut filter (5) for filtering light from the light emitter so as to transmit only near infrared light
15 component of the light or a greater amount of near infrared light component than visible light component of the light.

3. A method of imaging a liquid-filling container comprising the steps of emitting and irradiating light onto the container (B) by a light emitting unit (2), receiving the light transmitted through the container by a light
20 receiving unit (3) and imaging the container (B) based on information about the transmitted light;

characterized in that

said light receiving unit (3) receives a near infrared light as said
25 light for imaging the container (B).

4. The method according to claim 3, characterized in that said light receiving unit (3) comprises a cut filter (5) for filtering the light transmitted through the containers so as to selectively transmit only near infrared
30 component of the light or a greater amount of near infrared light component

than visible light component of the light and a light receiver (3A) for receiving the light transmitted through the cut filter.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1-4, characterized in that said light emitting unit (2) and said light receiving unit (3) are disposed so as to enable imaging of a container (B) which are conveyed one after another along a conveying line (1).

6. A method of detecting an amount of liquid filled in the container. with the method according to any one of claims 1-5.

7. A method of detecting any foreign substance present in the liquid filled in the container, with the method according to any one of claims 1-5.

8. A method of detecting any foreign substance present in the container or in a material forming the container with the method according to any one of claims 1-5.

9. An apparatus for imaging a liquid-filling container comprising a light emitting unit (2) for emitting and irradiating light onto the container (B) and a light receiving unit (3) for receiving the light transmitted through the container;

characterized in that

said light emitting unit (2) emits and irradiates a near infrared light as said light for imaging the container (B).

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, characterized in that said light emitting unit comprises a light emitter (2A) and a cut filter (5) for filtering light from the light emitter so as to transmit only near infrared component of the light or a greater amount of near infrared light component of the light

than visible light component thereof.

11. An apparatus for imaging a liquid-filling container comprising a light emitting unit (2) for emitting and irradiating light onto the container (B) and a light receiving unit (3) for receiving the light transmitted through the container;

characterized in that

said light receiving unit (3) receives a near infrared light as said light for imaging the container (B).

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, characterized in that said light receiving unit (3) comprises a cut filter (5) for filtering the light transmitted through the container so as to transmit only near infrared component of the light or a greater amount of near infrared light component than visible light component of the light and a light receiver (3A) for receiving the light transmitted through the cut filter.

13. The apparatus according to any one of claims 9-12, characterized in that said light emitting unit (2) and said light receiving unit (3) are disposed so as to enable imaging of said container (B) which is conveyed one after another along a conveying line (1).

14. An apparatus for detecting an amount of liquid filled in the container, which comprises the apparatus according to any one of claims 9-13.

15. An apparatus for detecting any foreign substance present in the liquid filled in the container, which comprises the apparatus according to any one of claims 9-13.

16. An apparatus for detecting any foreign substance present in the container or in a material forming the container, which comprises the apparatus according to any one of claims 9-13.

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